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DOCKET NO. D-1986-032 CP-3

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

Discharge to a Tributary of Special Protection Waters

**Borough of Catasauqua
Wastewater Treatment Plant
Catasauqua Borough, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania**

PROCEEDINGS

This docket is issued in response to an Application submitted to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC or Commission) by the Borough of Catasauqua (docket holder) on April 27, 2017 (Application), for renewal of the docket holder's existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and its discharge. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. PA0021580 for this facility was issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) on December 12, 2017, effective January 1, 2013.

The Application was reviewed for continuation of the project in the Comprehensive Plan and approval under Section 3.8 of the *Delaware River Basin Compact*. The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission has been notified of pending action. A public hearing on this project was held by the DRBC on November 15, 2017.

A. DESCRIPTION

- 1. Purpose.** The purpose of this docket is to renew approval of the docket holder's existing 2.25 million gallons per day (mgd) WWTP and its discharge. No modifications to the existing WWTP are proposed.
- 2. Location.** The WWTP discharge will continue to discharge treated effluent to the Lehigh River, a tributary to the Delaware River at River Mile 183.7 – 20.2 (Delaware River – Lehigh River) via Outfall No. 001, within the drainage area to the Lower Delaware Special Protection Waters (SPW), in Catasauqua Borough, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania as follows:

OUTFALL NO.	LATITUDE (N)	LONGITUDE (W)
001	40° 38' 53"	75° 28' 22"

3. Area Served. The docket holder's WWTP will continue to serve Catasauqua Borough, North Catasauqua Borough, and portions of Hanover Township located in Lehigh County and Northampton County, Pennsylvania. Additionally, the service area will include portion of Allen Township to serve a development. For the purpose of defining the Area Served, Section B (Type of Discharge) and D (Service Area) of the docket holder's Application are incorporated herein by reference, to the extent consistent with all other conditions contained in the DECISION Section of this docket.

4. Physical Features.

a. Design Criteria. The docket holder's 2.25 mgd WWTP utilizes an activated sludge treatment process with ultraviolet (UV) disinfection. No modifications to the existing facilities are proposed.

b. Facilities. The WWTP facilities consist of grit removal chamber with aeration, 2 primary clarifiers, 2 bio-filtration tanks including a roughing filter tank, a nitrification filter tank, 2 final clarifier tanks, 2 anaerobic digesters, a belt filter press, and UV disinfection.

The docket holder's wastewater treatment facility discharges to waters classified as SPW and is required to have available standby power. The existing WWTP has a generator installed capable of providing standby power. (SPW)

The docket holder's wastewater treatment facility is not staffed 24 hours per day, and shall have a remote alarm system that continuously monitors plant operations in accordance with the Commission's SPW requirements. The existing WWTP has a remote alarm system installed that continuously monitors plant operations. (SPW)

The docket holder has not prepared and implemented an emergency management plan (EMP) for the existing WWTP in accordance with Commission SPW requirements. The docket holder is required as part of this docket approval to prepare and implement an EMP within 6 months of approval of this docket (See DECISION Condition C.II.m.). (SPW)

Several of the WWTP facilities are located in the 100-year flood hazard area. On January 9, 2014, the docket holder notified the Commission that construction of the Flood Protection Wall had been completed as required by Docket No. D-1986-032 CP-2. Thus, the WWTP facilities located in the flood hazard area are flood proofed up to the flood protection elevation (one foot above the 100-year flood elevation).

Wasted sludge will continue to be hauled off-site by a licensed hauler for disposal at a state approved facility.

c. **Water withdrawals.** The potable water supply in the project service area is supplied by the docket holder. The water withdrawal from the Delaware River is described in detail in Docket No. D-1987-060 CP-4 which was approved on December 4, 2013.

d. **NPDES Permit / DRBC Docket.** NPDES Permit No. PA0021580 was issued by the PADEP on December 12, 2012 (effective January 1, 2013) and includes final effluent limitations for the project discharge of 2.25 mgd to surface waters classified by the PADEP as Trout Stocking Fisheries (TSF). The following average monthly effluent limits are among those listed in the NPDES Permit and meet or are more stringent than the effluent requirements of the DRBC.

EFFLUENT TABLE A-1: DRBC Parameters Included in NPDES Permit

OUTFALL 001 (Discharging to Lehigh River)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
pH (Standard Units)	6 to 9 at all times	As required by NPDES Permit
Total Suspended Solids	30 mg/l	As required by NPDES Permit
Dissolved Oxygen	5.0 mg/l (minimum at all times)	As required by NPDES Permit
CBOD ₅ (at 20° C)	25 mg/l (85% minimum removal)	As required by NPDES Permit
Ammonia Nitrogen (5-1 to 10-31) (11-1 to 4-30)	8.0 mg/ 20.0 mg/l	As required by NPDES Permit
Fecal Coliform	200 colonies per 100 ml as a geo. avg.	As required by NPDES Permit
Phosphorus	Monitor & Report	As required by NPDES Permit
Nitrate as N	Monitor & Report	As required by NPDES Permit
Total Nitrogen	Monitor & Report	As required by NPDES Permit
Total Dissolved Solids	Monitor & Report	As required by NPDES Permit

* See DECISION Condition C.II.u.

e. **Cost.** There are no construction costs associated with this WWTP renewal.

f. **Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan.** The Borough of Catasauqua WWTP was included in the Comprehensive Plan on July 25, 1962 via Resolution No. 62-14. Docket No. D-1986-032 CP approved the expansion of the WWTP to its current flow of 2.25 mgd and was included into the comprehensive Plan on September 17, 1986. The docket's approval was renewed on September 12, 2012 via Docket No. D-1986-032. Issuance of this docket will continue approval of the 2.25 mgd existing WWTP in the Comprehensive Plan (See DECISION Condition C.I.c.).

B. FINDINGS

The purpose of this docket is to renew approval of the existing 2.25 mgd WWTP and its related. No modifications to the existing facilities are proposed.

On July 16, 2008, the DRBC approved amendments to its *Water Quality Regulations* (WQR) that provide increased protection for waters that the Commission classifies as SPW. The portion of the Delaware River and its tributaries within the boundary of the Lower Delaware River Management Plan Area was approved for SPW designation. (Lower SPW)

The docket holder's WWTP discharges to the drainage area to the Lower Delaware River SPW. The docket holder's WWTP discharge is required to comply with the SPW requirements, as outlined in Article 3.10.3A.2. of the WQR.

Article 3.10.3A.2.e.1). and 2). of the Commission's WQR states that projects subject to review under Section 3.8 of the Compact that are located in the drainage area of SPW must submit for approval a Non-Point Source Pollution Control Plan (NPSPCP) that controls the new or increased non-point source loads generated within the portion of the docket holder's service area which is also located within the drainage area of SPW. The service area of the docket holder is located in the drainage area to the SPW. Since this project does entail additional service area and there are no new or increased non-point source loads associated with this approval, the NPSPCP requirement is applicable at this time.

Allen Township, the municipality wherein the proposed expanded service area is located, has adopted a stormwater ordinance which meets the Commission's NPSPCP requirement. Accordingly, DECISION Conditions C.II.1. has been included in this docket.

At the docket holder's WWTP discharge, the Lehigh River has an estimated seven-day low flow with a recurrence interval of ten years (Q_{7-10}) of 143 mgd (222 cfs). The ratio of this low flow to the hydraulic design wastewater discharge from the 2.25 mgd WWTP is 64 to 1.

The nearest surface water intake of record for public water supply is located on the Delaware River approximately 3 River Miles downstream of the docket holder's WWTP, and is operated by the City of Allentown.

The project does not conflict with the Comprehensive Plan and is designed to prevent substantial adverse impact on the water resources related environment, while sustaining the current and future water uses and development of the water resources of the Basin.

The effluent limits in the NPDES Permit are in compliance with Commission effluent quality requirements, where applicable.

The project is designed to produce a discharge meeting the effluent requirements as set forth in the Commission's WQR.

C. DECISION

- I. Effective on the approval date for Docket No. D-1986-032 CP-3 below:

a. The project described in Docket No. D-1986-032 CP-2 is removed from the Comprehensive Plan to the extent that they are not included in Docket No. D-1986-032 CP-3; and

b. Docket No(s). D-1986-032 CP-2 is/are terminated and replaced by Docket No. D-1986-032 CP-3; and

c. The project and the appurtenant facilities described in Section A “Physical Features” of this docket shall be continued in the Comprehensive Plan.

II. The project and appurtenant facilities as described in Section A “Physical Features” of this docket are approved pursuant to Section 3.8 of the *Compact*, subject to the following conditions:

a. Docket approval is subject to all conditions, requirements, and limitations imposed by the PADEP in its NPDES Permit.

b. The facility and operational records shall be available at all times for inspection by the DRBC.

c. The facility shall be operated at all times to comply with the requirements of the Commission’s *WQR* and Flood Plain Regulations (*FPR*). (non-tidal discharges)

d. The docket holder shall comply with the requirements contained in the EFFLUENT TABLES in Section A.4.d. of this docket. The docket holder shall submit the required monitoring results electronically to the DRBC Project Review Section via email aemr@drbc.state.nj.us on the **Annual Effluent Monitoring Report Form** located at this web address: <http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/programs/project/pr/info.html>. The monitoring results shall be submitted annually, absent any observed limit violations, by January 31. If a DRBC effluent limit is violated, the docket holder shall submit the result(s) to the DRBC within 30 days of the violation(s) and provide a written explanation that states the action(s) the docket holder has taken to correct the violation(s) and protect against any future violations.

e. Except as otherwise authorized by this docket, if the docket holder seeks relief from any limitation based upon a DRBC water quality standard or minimum treatment requirement, the docket holder shall apply for approval from the Executive Director or for a docket revision in accordance with Section 3.8 of the *Compact* and the *Rules of Practice and Procedure*.

f. If at any time the receiving treatment plant proves unable to produce an effluent that is consistent with the requirements of this docket approval, no further connections shall be permitted until the deficiency is remedied.

g. Nothing herein shall be construed to exempt the docket holder from obtaining all necessary permits and/or approvals from other State, Federal or local government agencies having jurisdiction over this project.

h. The docket holder is permitted to treat and discharge wastewaters as set forth in the Area Served Section of this docket, which incorporates by reference Sections B (Type of Discharge) and D (Service Area) of the docket holder's Application to the extent consistent with all other conditions of this DECISION Section.

i. The docket holder shall discharge wastewater in such a manner as to avoid injury or damage to fish or wildlife and shall avoid any injury to public or private property.

j. No sewer service connections shall be made to newly constructed premises with plumbing fixtures and fittings that do not comply with water conservation performance standards contained in Resolution No. 88-2 (Revision 2).

k. The issuance of this docket approval shall not create any private or proprietary rights in the waters of the Basin, and the Commission reserves the right to amend, suspend or rescind the docket for cause, in order to ensure proper control, use and management of the water resources of the Basin.

l. The municipality wherein the proposed expanded service area is located, Allen Township, has adopted a stormwater ordinance which meets the Commission's NPSPCP requirement. Prior to allowing connections from any new service areas or any new developments, the docket holder shall either submit and have approved by the Executive Director of the DRBC a NPSPCP in accordance with Section 3.10.3.A.2.e, or receive written confirmation from the Executive Director of the DRBC that the new service area is in compliance with a DRBC approved NPSPCP.

m. The docket holder shall prepare an emergency management plan (EMP) within 6 months of docket approval. The docket holder shall submit the EMP and certify in writing to the Commission that it has complied with this condition by June 13, 2018.

n. In accordance with Section 3.10.3A.2.e. of the Commission's *WQR*, the docket holder shall approve no connections from any service area or new development within the service area identified in Description Section A.3. without first obtaining from the DRBC Project Review Section written confirmation that a NPSPCP approved by the Commission is in place for the service area or development to be served.

o. The docket holder is responsible for timely submittal to the DRBC of a docket renewal application on the appropriate application form including the appropriate docket application filing fee (see 18 CFR 401.43) at least 6 months in advance of the docket expiration date set forth below. The docket holder will be subject to late filed renewal surcharges in the event of untimely submittal of its renewal application, whether or not DRBC issues a reminder notice in advance of the deadline or the docket holder receives such notice. In the event that a timely and complete application for renewal has been submitted and the DRBC is unable, through no fault of the docket holder, to reissue the docket before the expiration date below, the terms and conditions of the current docket will remain fully effective and enforceable against the docket holder pending the grant or denial of the application for docket approval.

p. The docket holder shall be subject to applicable DRBC regulatory program fees, in accordance with duly adopted DRBC resolutions and/or regulations (see 18 CFR 401.43).

q. This approval is transferable by request to the DRBC Executive Director provided that the project purpose and area served approved by the Commission in this docket will not be materially altered because of the change in project ownership. The request shall be submitted on the appropriate form and be accompanied by the appropriate fee (see 18 CFR 401.43).

r. The docket holder shall request a name change of the entity to which this approval is issued if the name of the entity to which this approval is issued changes its name. The request for name change shall be submitted on the appropriate form and be accompanied by the appropriate fee (see 18 CFR 401.43).

s. The Executive Director may modify or suspend this approval or any condition thereof, or require mitigating measures pending additional review, if in the Executive Director's judgment such modification or suspension is required to protect the water resources of the Basin.

t. Any person who objects to a docket decision by the Commission may request a hearing in accordance with Article 6 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure. In accordance with Section 15.1(p) of the Delaware River Basin Compact, cases and controversies arising under the Compact are reviewable in the United States district courts.

u. The docket holder may request of the Executive Director in writing the substitution of specific conductance for TDS. The request should include information that supports the effluent specific correlation between TDS and specific conductance. Upon review, the Executive Director may modify the docket to allow the substitution of specific conductance for TDS monitoring.

v. Nothing in this docket constitutes a defense to any penalty action for past conduct of the docket holder or ongoing activity not authorized by this approval. In particular, renewal of this docket does not resolve violations – whether in the past or continuing – of provisions of the Delaware River Basin Compact (“Compact”) or any rule, regulation, order or approval duly issued by the Commission or the Executive Director pursuant to the Compact. The Commission reserves its right to take appropriate enforcement action against the docket holder, including but not limited to recovery of financial penalties consistent with Section 14.17 of the Compact, for any and all such prior or continuing violations.

w. The docket holder is prohibited from treating/pre-treating any hydraulic fracturing wastewater from sources in or out of the Basin at this time. Should the docket holder wish to treat/pre-treat hydraulic fracturing wastewater in the future, the docket holder will need to first apply to the Commission to renew this docket and be issued a revised docket allowing such treatment and an expanded service area. Failure to obtain this approval prior to treatment/pre-treatment will result in action by the Commission.

x. Prior to the docket holder initiating any substantial alterations or additions to the existing WWTP as defined in Section 3.10.3A2.a.16) of the Commission's *WQR*, an application must be submitted and approved by the Commission. Such an application shall be submitted prior to final design to ensure that the Commission can provide the docket holder with draft effluent limitations for SPW specific parameters as guidance for design as to not require duplication of work or cause a substantial expenditure of public funds without Commission approval. The docket holder is encouraged to contact the Commission staff during the planning stages to identify the potential effluent limitations required to meet the no measurable change parameters under SPW.

y. The docket holder owes a remaining balance of \$2,000 for this docket renewal. The balance shall be paid within sixty (60) days of issuance of this docket (by February 11, 2018) or fees may be assessed in accordance with the Commission's Penalty Matrix.

BY THE COMMISSION

APPROVAL DATE:

EXPIRATION DATE: December 31, 2022